

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03685 020636Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6236
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, EURG, NO, CH
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN CABINET OFFICIALS TO VISIT PRC

1. NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM AND ENERGY MINISTER BJARTMAR GJERDE WILL LEAD A DELEGATION OF 10-15 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS TO CHINA NOVEMBER 11-24. THIS TRIP IS ONE OF A SERIES BY GJERDE IN THE NEAR FUTURE (BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, INDIA) DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE USE OF NORWEGIAN OFFSHORE PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY, GOODS, AND SERVICES. THE GJERDE GROUP WILL BE BUILDING UPON PREVIOUS COMMERCIAL CONTACTS ESTABLISHED BY THE NORWEGIAN EXPORT COUNCIL AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH DETAILED PLANS HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, IT APPEARS THAT THE DELEGATION WILL SPEND AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN PEKING TO MEET, AMONG OTHERS, THE CHINESE ENERGY MINISTER AND DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO PING.

2. NORWEGIAN FINANCE MINISTER PER KLEPPE ALSO HOPES TO VISIT CHINA THIS FALL. ACCORDING TO GON CONTACTS, THE NORWEGIANS AND CHINESE HAVE FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE A KLEPPE VISIT, BUT FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATES HAS SO FAR PROVED ELUSIVE. KLEPPE WAS
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MOST RECENTLY SCHEDULED TO GO TO CHINA LAST MAY, AND NOW THE HOPE IS THAT THE TRIP CAN BE ARRANGED FOR SEPTEMBER. THE PURPOSE FOR KLEPPE'S TRIP REMAINS THE SAME -- TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. OUR GON CONTACT BELIEVES THAT THE ENERGY MINISTER'S VISIT WILL NOT IMPEDE PLANS TO SCHEDULE A TRIP FOR KLEPPE THIS AUTUMN AS WELL.

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